

Speech for Tuesday, April 3rd, before the United Nations.

Two months ago, on this day, American troops spearheaded by the First Cavalry Division, entered Manila, the capital city of the Philippines. The story of the ignominious and unwarranted destruction of Manila and the wholesale massacre of civilians carried out by Japanese soldiers is known to you all. I need not repeat it here. I only hope that the sad picture you have in your minds remains engraved there forever, so that your children and your children's children may know that the Japanese nation is composed of beings completely devoid of human sentiments and unfit to be a member of the civilized nations of the world. To those of us who knew Manila in its pre-war days with all its glamour and beauty, its condition to-day must bring a sense of sadness and unyielding grief. Laughter has been replaced by tears, the light-hearted days by iron and blood.

General MacArthur who has a warm spot in his heart for the Philippines and the Filipinos had tried his very best to

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save the city from destruction. He had hoped that the Japanese forces would respect Manila and save it, as he did in December, 1941. The subsequent destruction was in accord with Japan's diabolic policy of "RULE OR RUIN."

To-day, our victorious troops are hunting the enemy in his mountain hideouts and pushing him to his final fate -- annihilation. General MacArthur's brilliant strategy of hitting the enemy where he least expects it, has left him completely disconcerted, and we may reasonably expect that, before the year is over, the entire Philippines will be completely liberated. The Filipino people endured indescribable suffering and punishment during the seemingly endless three years of Japanese occupation. The great majority were underfed, underclothed and sick. Many of them have lost their homes and their personal belongings. Hundreds died daily of hunger. The Japanese hordes who call themselves the leaders of the "Greater East Asia" movement failed utterly to prove their leadership. Instead of bringing

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to the country food supplies and clothing badly needed by the people, they robbed the poor people of most of their crops and animals. Throughout this period, the supreme desire and fervent prayer of the Filipino people was the early return of General MacArthur and his American troops, to expel the invaders and restore to the country the freedom, the peace, the happiness and prosperity which were the heritage of the Filipino people.

The Filipinos, loyal to their Commonwealth Government and loyal to the United States of America which brought to the Islands the blessings of Democracy, carried on a magnificent passive resistance. Guerrilla units were organized throughout the country -- in the cities, in the villages and in the mountains -- harassing the enemy continually and laying an underground movement second to none in the history of oppressed people.

The most important problem to-day is that of relief and rehabilitation not only of the civilians, but of the various

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industries of the country. The chief concern of the Commonwealth Government is to institute relief measures in cooperation with the U. S. Army Philippine Civil Affairs Units. The American Red Cross is lending valuable cooperation in this tremendous relief work. Shipments of clothing and supplies from the United States are being received through the Philippine War Relief, the main office of which is in Washington, D. C. In the procurement of relief supplies, the resources of the United States, Australia and other allied nations have been drawn upon, and it is hoped that in the future, the Filipinos may return with equal generosity all the material help which we are receiving now from our allies.

Throughout this war against the totalitarian nations who have tried to rule the rest of the world by the sword and by the cannon, the Filipino people never lost faith in the ultimate victory of the United Nations. They remained loyal to the ideals of Democracy and Freedom for which the United Nations are fighting. And now, in this tremendous work

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of relief being carried out in the Philippines by Americans, Filipinos and members of other United Nations, we are facing the common task of rehabilitating a physically broken people and rebuilding a destroyed country to its pre-war happiness and glory. The solidarity of the United Nations is thus expressed once more in a tangible way. As a people, we Filipinos believe that this solidarity should continue as the basis of better understanding and closer cooperation between the nations of the world in the future.

Yes, the outlook for these islands is bright. There is a promise of happy future ahead of us. It may be difficult to attain. It may mean more hardships, more sweat, and tears, perhaps. But we have proven in these last three years, that we Filipinos are made of a mettle that lasts. From the ashes of our half-burnt city, we Filipinos shall rise again. Out of the blood of our martyrs, this country shall rise anew. Our flag covered with the dust and blood of Bataan - shall never again be lowered in this our land.

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